

RETROFIT FLUORESCENT LIGHT TUBE FIXTURE APPARATUS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

0001 - Up to the present time fluorescent light fixtures included elongated fluorescent light tubes , mounted in a fixture as a unit and the fixture unit installed, usually on the ceiling and when problems arose with the unit the whole fixture was removed, for example, to change the ballast then re-mount the repaired unit...

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

0002 - This invention pertains to an elongated fluorescent light tubes fixture including a ceiling mount channel and a metal , light reflector assembly section formed to fit onto a formed plastic backing, and a live plastic hinge at each of the two longitudinal edges of the formed plastic backing or segment, with fluorescent light tubes mounted in sockets at each end of the metal light reflector assembly, having the same cross section contour as the formed plastic backing and attaching the metal light reflector to the formed plastic backing for the metal light reflector, and a ballast mounted , in a channel, or groove formed on the back side of the formed plastic backing for the metal light reflector assembly, and this sub-assembly, having live plastic hinges, to complete the assembly of the retrofit fluorescent light tubes fixture assembly. The related art is in the field of illumination class 362 and subclass 217, elongated source light.

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

0003 - An object of this invention is to disclose retrofit fluorescent light tube fixture apparatus, including a light reflector a formed plastic backing for the light reflector and each having the same cross section contour of an inverted wave shape or form for intimately fitting the formed plastic backing onto the light reflector having edges fitting into slots in the outer edges of the formed plastic backing and fluorescent light tube sockets mounted on each end of the light reflector , in the troughs of the inverted wave form , and a ballast mounted and held in position , by friction fit, between the side walls of a channel on the formed plastic backing, and

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wires from the ballast to the fluorescent tube sockets, this sub-assembly attached to a ceiling mount channel by means of slots in the side walls of the formed plastic backing and screws extending through the sidewalls and through the sidewall of the sides of the ceiling mount channel fitting over, astraddle of, downward extending edges of the ceiling mount channel and live plastic hinges attached to sidewalls of formed plastic backing and to the sidewalls of the formed plastic backing.

PRIOR ART .

Prior art U. S. patents are:

6,601,976 for SNAP ASSEMBLED LIGHT FIXTURE APPARATUS.

6,439,741 for LUMINAIRE OF ELONGATE SHAPE.

6,210,019 for METHOD FOR RETROFITTING -- FLUORESCENT FIXTURE.

4,928,209 for LIGHTING APPARATUS.

4,435,744 for EXPLOSION-PROOF FLUORESCENT LIGHT FIXTURE..

None of the above cited prior art patents would anticipate, or collectively make obvious this present invention

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIGURE NO.	DESCRIPTION.
1. -----	Top plan view of reflector assembly ..
2. -----	End cross section elevation view of reflector subassembly.
3. -----	Cross section elevation view of light reflector sub-assembly.
4. -----	Cross section of light reflector .
5. -----	Exploded end view of light reflector sub-assembly apparatus and ceiling mount channel.
6. -----	Cross section view of assembly of light reflector sub-assembly apparatus attached to ceiling mount channel.
7 -----	Top plan view of ceiling mounting channel.
8 . -----	Cross section view of ceiling mount channel .
9 . -----	Side elevation view of light fixture sub-assembly.
10. -----	Plan view of fluorescent light tube side of fluorescent light fixture sub-assembly.
11 . -----	Exploded side elevation view of light reflector sub-assembly and ceiling mount channel .
12. -----	Enlarged view of fitting of ceiling mount channel edge in slot of light reflector.

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FIGURE NO.

DESCRIPTION

- 13. ----- Enlarged view of side wall of groove of light reflector .
- 14. ----- Cross section view of light reflector sub-assembly swung
down-ward , supported by live hinge .
- 15. ----- Side elevation view of complete assembly of retrofit
fluorescent light tube fixture assembly..
- 16. ----- Screws for attaching light reflector sub-assembly to ceiling
mount channel.
- 17. ----- Exploded top plan view of sub- assembly. retrofit
fluorescent light fixture.

DESCRIPTIONS OF LEGENDS

LEGEND NO.	DESCRIPTION
1. -----	Fluorescent light tube reflectors . .
2. -----	Formed plastic backing for reflector..
3. -----	Blind hole apertures for button fitting of fluorescent light tube sockets.
4, 4' -----	Side walls of center channel of formed plastic backing.
5. -----	Fluorescent light tubes
6., 6', 6'', 6'''-----	Fluorescent light tube sockets.
7, 7'. -----	Slots in side walls of plastic backing..
8. -----	Ceiling mount channel, (metal or plastic)
9. -----	Ballast.
10. -----	Aperture for electric power line.
11. -----	Electric power supply wires.
12. -----	Blue wire from ballast.
13. -----	Blue wire from ballast.
14. -----	Red wire from ballast.
15. -----	Ground wire from ballast.
16, 16'. -----	Live plastic hinges.
17 -----	Screws for attachment of light reflector sub- assembly to ceiling mount channel.
18. -----	Apertures for screws.
19. -----	Shunt wire.
20. -----	Light reflector subassembly.

LEGENDS

DESCRIPTIONS

21. -----	Notches for mounting of fluorescent light tube sockets
22 -----	Channel on formed plastic backing.
23, 23'. -----	Slots in outer edges of formed plastic backing
24 -----	Side elevation view of luminaire fixture assembly.
25, 25' -----	Edges of fluorescent light tube reflector.
26, 26' -----	Turned down edge of side walls of center channel.
27, 27' -----	Side walls of formed plastic backing.
28, 28' -----	Side walls of ceiling mount channel.
T, T' -----	Invert wave shape troughs.

0004- DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Up to the present time, to repair a hanging elongate fluorescent tube luminaire required dismantling of the fixture to change the ballast, for example . This invention obviates the requirement to dismantle the fixture, but instead to open the luminaire fixture by unfastening one side of the fixture to drop down the unfastened side to expose the back side of the lighting fixture to make the repairs needed, such as replacing the ballast and yet leaving one side of the fixture attached to the ceiling mount channel. (see Fig. 14).

0004 - Referring now to Fig. 1, which is a top plan view of reflector assembly , showing formed plastic backing 2 for reflector mounting of light reflector subassembly 20 and ballast 9 mounted in channel 22 and the channel 22 bounded by side walls 4, 4' of center channel of formed plastic backing 2 . Fluorescent light tube sockets 6, 6', 6'', 6''' are attached at each end of the light reflector sub-assembly 20, and the fluorescent light tube sockets 6 are attached in the conventional manner of a protruding button fitting into a blind hole or aperture 3 , in the base of the reflector sub assembly 20, and further, as shown in Fig. 17 , notches 21 are provided at the ends of the light reflector subassembly 20, for mounting of the fluorescent light tube sockets 6, 6', 6'', 6'''.. Blue wire 12 from ballast 9, connects to a fluorescent light tube socket 6 , and a separate blue wire 13 from ballast 9, connects to another fluorescent light tube socket 6'. Red wire 14, from ballast 9, connects to fluorescent light tube socket 6'', and shunt wire 19 connects socket 6'' and 6'''. Ground wire 15 extends from ballast 9 to a ground . Fluorescent light tube sockets 6'' and 6''' are at opposite ends of the fluorescent tubes 5, 5' from fluorescent light tube sockets 6 and 6'

0005 - Figs 2, 3, 4, 5, shows the end cross section elevation view of reflector subassembly, and the formed plastic backing 2, for fluorescent light tube reflectors 1, mounting, and live

plastic hinge 16, 16' which is an integral part of the formed plastic backing 2 for reflector mounting. The live plastic hinge 16 and 16' allows for swinging downward of one side of the fixture, when mounted on ceiling mount channel 8, (see Fig. 14). Side walls 27, 27' of formed plastic backing 2, for fluorescent light tube reflector 1, Figs 2, 3, 4, 5, and 12 have slots 7, 7' to fit over the downward hanging vertical edges of ceiling mount channel 8, and preferably self tapping screws 17, (see Fig. 16) are driven into apertures 18, in slotted vertical side wall 7, 7' of formed plastic backing 2 for reflectors 1 and extending through the vertical wall of ceiling mount channel 8.

0006 - Fig. 7, is a top plan view of ceiling mounting channel showing aperture 10 for electric power line in the ceiling mount channel 8, and power line wires 11 to extend through aperture 10 and to luminaire fixture assembly 24, as shown in Fig. 15, side elevation view of complete assembly, including fluorescent light tubes 5, of luminaire fixture attached to ceiling mount channel 8. Fig. 8 is a cross section view of ceiling mount channel 8. Fig. 9 is a side elevation view of light reflector sub-assembly 20, and Fig. 10 is a plan view of fluorescent light tube side of light reflector sub-assembly. Fig. 11 is an exploded side elevation view of light reflector subassembly 20, and, metal or plastic ceiling mount channel 8., aligned for assembly.

0007 - Slots 23, 23' in vertical wall 7 of formed plastic backing 2, (see Figs. 2, 3, and 4), and the slots 23, 23' fit onto, by straddling, the sides of ceiling mount channel 8, (see Fig. 6) .

0008 - The ballast 9 is mounted in channel 22, see Figs. 1, 3, and 6, and the ballast 9 is a friction fit in channel 22, held in position as shown in Fig. 13, by side walls 4, 4' of center channel 22 of formed plastic backing 2.

0009 - Fig. 14 cross section view of light reflector sub-assembly, swung down ward, and supported by live plastic hinge 16'. On swinging the sub-assembly down ward allows for repair of wires, or replacement of the ballast 9 as needed..

0010 - Referring to Fig. 15 there is shown a side elevation view of the complete assembly 24, of the luminaire fixture..

0011 - The longitudinal edges 25, 25' of fluorescent light tube reflector 1. fitted into slots 23, 23' in outer edges of formed plastic backing 2, to join the fluorescent light tube reflector 1 to the formed plastic backing 2, sub assembly of the light fixture. (see Figs. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 14). There is intimate fitting of the reflector 1, and the formed plastic backing 2 as the fluorescent light tube reflector 1, and the formed plastic backing 2 have the same cross section contour. The contour shown in Figs. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 14, can best be described as an inverted double wave form or wave shape, and the fluorescent light tube sockets 6, 6', 6'', 6''' , mounted at the troughs of the wave shapes, for mounting of fluorescent light tubes 5 also in the troughs of the inverted wave form or shape. As an alternate to the wave shape, the reflectors could be a flat surface, or a single arc shape to reflect fluorescent light tubes and the formed plastic backing 2 to then have the same contour as the fluorescent light tube reflectors 1.

0012 - Referring now to Figs.2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 14, the edges 25, 25' of fluorescent light tube reflector are fitted into slots 23, 23' respectively in outer edges of formed plastic backing 2..

0013 - Turned down edges 26, 26' of side walls 4, 4' holds the ballast 9 in a friction fit in channel 22 of formed plastic backing. The turned down segments are turned down on the inside of the channel 22 and the turned down sections 26, 26' may be corrugated as shown. to provide more friction for holding the ballast 9.

0014 - Referring to Figs. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12 and 14 vertical sidewalls of formed plastic backing 2, and slots 7, 7' in vertical sidewalls 27, 27' and the vertical sidewalls 27 and 27' astraddle the side edges of ceiling mount channel 8, and the side edges of ceiling mount 8 fitting in slots 7, 7' of the vertical sidewalls 27, 27' to complete the retrofit fluorescent light tube fixture apparatus.

0015 - The formed plastic backing 2, of this invention may be formed of polyvinylchloride, identified as "rigid" which is preferred or other thermoplastic materials such as polypropylene, polycarbonate, and polyethylene. The reflectors may be of polished metal such as aluminum, steel or stainless steel, and chrome plated steel., for good light reflection. The polyvinylchloride (PVC), identified as rigid PVC (RPVC) having a Durometer hardness per ASTM D2240 (instantaneous) of 82, a flexural modulus per ASTM D790 of 417,000

psi, and a notched IZOD , per ASTM D250, of 24.5 ft-lb/in.. Referring now to the live plastic hinge 16, 16' , the preferred material is a flexible PVC (FPVC) , having a Durometer hardness; Shore A per ASTM 2240 of 64, and Tear Strength per ASTM D624 of 200 lb/in.

0016 - The cross section contour of the reflectors 1 and the formed plastic backing 2 can best be described as, inverted wave form or shape, and the fluorescent light tube sockets 6, 6', 6'' 6''' and fluorescent light tubes 5, 5' mounted in the troughs T, T' of the inverted wave shape, as shown in Figs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 14.

0017 - A switch for on/off control of the fluorescent light fixture of this disclosure, is not shown, as the switch installation would be as desired, such as a wall switch,, at the time of installation of this lighting fixture apparatus.

0018 - The fluorescent light tube reflector 1, to be a metal such as aluminum, steel, stainless steel, chrome plated steel. Aluminum is the preferred metal.

0019 - The formed plastic backing 2, for reflector 1, to be made from a plastic such as polyvinylchloride, (PVC), polypropylene, polycarbonate, or polyethylene. The preferred plastic backing 2, as noted above, is rigid polyvinylchloride, (PVC) and flexible polyvinyl (PVC) for the live plastic hinges 16, 16' can best be formed by co-extrusion with the rigid polyvinylchloride forming the plastic backing 2, for the fluorescent light tube reflectors 1. .

0020 - The live plastic hinges 16 and 16' are connected to bases of sidewalls 27 and 27' respectively , and to the formed plastic backing 2, to thus provide a plastic live hinge joint. (See Figs. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 14) The live plastic hinges 16, 16' of flexible PVC , as described above, then allow a drop down of either side of the fixture apparatus as shown in Fig. 14, for retrofit or repair of the fixture assembly without removal from the ceiling mount channel 8.

0021 - In the above disclosure the word "reflector" is meant to include both reflectors as one unit

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0022 - The ceiling mount channel 8, to be either metal, such as steel , or rigid plastic such as polyvinylchloride (PVC), as described above.